

P20418.A01



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Thomas THORÖE SCHERB)

Appln. No : 09/769,462)

Filed : January 26, 2001)

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Unknown

For : MACHINE AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A TISSUE WEB

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

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APR 30 2001
TC 1700

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,746,887 issued to Wendt et al. on May 5, 1998, which is discussed in the present application beginning on page 1, paragraph [0003] of the disclosure;
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 5,492,598 issued to Hermans et al. on February 20, 1996, which is discussed in the present application beginning on page 1, paragraph [0003] of the disclosure;
- (3) Swedish Patent Application No. 427 053, published February 28, 1983, which is discussed in the present application beginning on page 1, paragraph [0003] of the disclosure. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith an English language translation of the above-cited document;

(4) European Patent No. 1 016 754 A1, which corresponds to European Patent Application No. 99 125 789, published July 5, 2000, which is discussed in the present application beginning on page 3, paragraph [0012] of the disclosure; and

(5) International Publication No. WO 00/12817, which corresponds to International Patent Application No. PCT/GB99/02684, published August 27, 1999, which is discussed in the present application beginning on page 5, paragraph [0025] of the disclosure.

Applicant also submits herewith a copy of a German Search Report dated April 5, 2000 conducted in connection with German Patent Application No. 100 03 686.4, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the German Examiner cited:

(6) U.S. Patent No. 5,746,887 issued to Wendt et al. on May 5, 1998, as a "D" category document (i.e., a document discussed in the present application). Applicant notes that this document is listed above as item (1);

(7) U.S. Patent No. 5,492,598 issued to Hermans et al. on February 20, 1996, as a "D" category document. Applicant notes that this document is listed above as item (2);

(8) German Patent Application No. 197 32 879 A1, published February 4, 1999, as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question the inventive step when considered with another document from this category). In particular, the Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 2, 9, 11 - 14, 16, and 22 - 24 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of International Patent Application No. WO 99/06629, published February 11, 1999, which is a patent family member of the above-cited

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document and contains an English language Abstract;

(9) German Patent No. 42 24 730 C1, issued September 2, 1993, as a "Y" category document. In particular, the Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1 - 7, 10, 11, 15 - 18, 21 and 22 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,393,384 issued to Steiner et al. on February 28, 1995, which is a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document; and

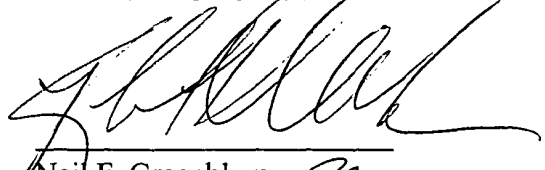
(10) German Patent Application No. 196 54 198 A1, published June 25, 1998, as a "Y" category document. In particular, the Examiner noted Figures 1, 54 and 56 as relevant to claim 14 of the German application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,004,429 issued to Schiel on December 21, 1999.

Copies of the above-listed documents are enclosed (including a copy of the German Search Report) as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Should there be any question or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

April 26, 2001
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Respectfully submitted,
Thomas THORÖE SCHERB


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